

Advent Series: The Plan #1
Pleading for One Thing: Matthew 15:21-28

1. Dan suggested that as a true celebration of the birth of Christ, Christmas may be “on the roof” (dead or dying). What traditions do you have that most connect in a meaningful way with the true meaning, the epic story of Christmas?

2. What do you do to keep Christmas from becoming a celebration of consumerism?

3. Read Matthew 15:21-28. This woman was pleading for one thing. Her one thing was a better life for her daughter. Do you have a one-thing? One-thing that matters to you more than anything else...one-thing that you bring to Christ all the time? What is it?

4. Dan suggested that this woman refused to be denied in spite of three things, a. being an ignored outsider, b. wondering if God even cares, c. shame rising up within her. Which one of those three impact you the most? How or why?

5. Read the prophecy of Christmas in Isaiah 9:1-7. These words were written 700+ years before the first Christmas, imagine waiting that long for God’s answer to your prayers. What will cause us (or at least help us) to wait, to endure, to hope when the answers to prayer are long in coming?

6. Read Luke 15:25-27. Dan made three statements from these verses. A. Your Persistent Pleading is Worship. B. Your Helplessness May Be Your Best Prayer. C. His Crumbs are a Feast. Which of those statements give you the most hope? Why?

7. Read Luke 15:28. What does this woman and this story teach you about faith? Don’t limit yourself to the sermon. From the whole passage (or even others like it) what do we learn about faith?

8. Every time you see a gift, buy a gift or receive a gift, think of pleading for your one-thing. The ultimate one-thing is Christ. Who in your life needs Christ?